

House File 537 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 537
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 176)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to snowmobile user permits and registration
2 fees.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321G.2, subsection 1, paragraph h, Code
2 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

3 Sec. 2. Section 321G.3, Code 2017, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **321G.3 Registration and user permit required — penalties.**

6 1. Each snowmobile used by a resident on public land, public
7 ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this state shall be
8 currently registered in this state pursuant to [section 321G.4](#).
9 A resident shall not operate, maintain, or give permission
10 for the operation or maintenance of a snowmobile on public
11 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail unless the
12 snowmobile is registered in accordance with [this chapter](#).
13 ~~The owner of a snowmobile must also obtain a user permit in~~
14 ~~accordance with [section 321G.4A](#).~~

15 2. A violation of [subsection 1](#) is punishable as a
16 scheduled violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 2](#),
17 paragraph "a". When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator
18 shall submit proof to the department that a valid registration
19 ~~and user permit have~~ has been obtained by providing a copy
20 of the registration ~~and user permit~~ to the department within
21 thirty days of the date the fine is paid. A person who violates
22 this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

23 Sec. 3. Section 321G.4, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 2. The owner of the snowmobile shall file an application for
26 registration with the department through the county recorder
27 of the county of residence in the manner established by the
28 commission. The application shall be completed by the owner
29 and shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars and
30 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#). A snowmobile
31 shall not be registered by the county recorder until the
32 county recorder is presented with receipts, bills of sale,
33 or other satisfactory evidence that the sales or use tax has
34 been paid for the purchase of the snowmobile or that the
35 owner is exempt from paying the tax. A snowmobile that has

1 an expired registration certificate from another state may be
2 registered in this state upon proper application, payment of
3 all applicable registration and writing fees, and payment of a
4 penalty of five dollars.

5 Sec. 4. Section 321G.4B, Code 2017, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **321G.4B Nonresident requirements — penalties.**

8 1. A nonresident wishing to operate a snowmobile on public
9 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this
10 state shall ~~obtain a user permit in accordance with section~~
11 ~~321G.4A. In addition to obtaining a user permit, a nonresident~~
12 ~~shall~~ display a current registration decal or other evidence
13 of registration or numbering required by the owner's state of
14 residence unless the owner resides in a state that does not
15 register or number snowmobiles.

16 2. A violation of [subsection 1](#) is punishable as a scheduled
17 violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 2](#), paragraph "a".
18 When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator shall ~~submit~~
19 ~~proof to the department that a user permit has been obtained~~
20 ~~and~~ provide evidence of registration or numbering as required
21 by the owner's state of residence, if applicable, to the
22 department within thirty days of the date the fine is paid.
23 A person who violates this section is guilty of a simple
24 misdemeanor.

25 Sec. 5. Section 321G.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 **321G.5 Display of registration ~~and user permit decals~~ decal.**

28 The owner of a snowmobile shall display the registration
29 ~~decal and user permit decal~~ on the snowmobile in the manner
30 prescribed by the rules of the commission.

31 Sec. 6. Section 321G.6, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2017, are
32 amended to read as follows:

33 1. Every snowmobile registration certificate and
34 registration decal issued expires at midnight December 31
35 unless sooner terminated or discontinued in accordance with

1 this chapter or rules of the commission. After the first
 2 day of September each year, an unregistered snowmobile
 3 may be registered and a registration may be renewed in one
 4 transaction. The fee is five dollars for the remainder of the
 5 current year, in addition to the registration fee of ~~fifteen~~
 6 thirty dollars for the subsequent year beginning January 1, and
 7 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

8 4. A county recorder or a license agent designated by the
 9 director pursuant to [section 483A.11](#) may issue snowmobile
 10 registration renewals electronically pursuant to rules adopted
 11 by the commission. The fee for a registration renewal issued
 12 using an electronic system is ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars plus an
 13 administrative fee established by the commission and a writing
 14 fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

15 Sec. 7. Section 321G.7, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
 16 to read as follows:

17 2. The department shall remit the fees, ~~including user~~
 18 ~~permit fees collected pursuant to [section 321G.4A](#)~~, to the
 19 treasurer of state, who shall place the money in a special
 20 snowmobile fund. The money is appropriated to the department
 21 for the snowmobile programs of the state. The programs shall
 22 include grants, subgrants, contracts, or cost-sharing of
 23 snowmobile programs with political subdivisions or incorporated
 24 private organizations or both in accordance with rules adopted
 25 by the commission. Snowmobile fees may be used to support
 26 snowmobile programs on a usage basis. At least ~~fifty~~ eighty
 27 percent of the special fund shall be available for political
 28 subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or both.
 29 Moneys from the special fund not used by the political
 30 subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or both
 31 shall remain in the fund and may be used by the department for
 32 ~~the administration of the snowmobile programs~~ purchase of trail
 33 grooming equipment. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in
 34 the special fund shall not revert to the general fund of the
 35 state at the end of a fiscal year. Notwithstanding section

1 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the
2 special fund shall remain in the fund.

3 Sec. 8. Section 321G.8, Code 2017, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **321G.8 Exempt vehicles.**

6 Registration ~~and user~~ permits shall not be required for the
7 following described snowmobiles:

8 1. Snowmobiles owned by the United States, this state, or
9 another state, or by a governmental subdivision thereof, and
10 used for enforcement, search and rescue, or official research
11 and studies, but not for recreational or commercial purposes.

12 2. Snowmobiles used exclusively as farm implements.

13 3. Snowmobiles registered with an approved sponsored
14 snowmobile special event.

15 Sec. 9. Section 321G.27, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
16 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

17 Sec. 10. Section 321G.27, subsection 2, Code 2017, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 2. ~~a.~~ A license agent shall collect a writing fee of
20 one dollar for a snowmobile registration or for renewal of a
21 registration by the license agent.

22 ~~b. A license agent shall retain a writing fee of one dollar~~
23 ~~from the sale of each user permit issued by the license agent.~~

24 Sec. 11. Section 321G.34, subsection 5, Code 2017, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 5. a. Upon the conviction of a person of any violation of
27 this chapter or a rule adopted under [this chapter](#), the court,
28 as a part of the judgment, may suspend or revoke one or more
29 snowmobile registration ~~or user permit~~ privileges of the person
30 for any definite period.

31 b. The court shall revoke all of the person's snowmobile
32 registrations ~~or user permits~~ and suspend the privilege of
33 procuring a registration ~~or user permit~~ for a period of one
34 year for any person who has been convicted twice within one
35 year of trespassing while operating a snowmobile. A person

1 shall not be issued a registration ~~or user permit~~ during the
2 period of suspension or revocation.

3 Sec. 12. Section 331.602, subsection 16, Code 2017, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 16. Issue snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle registrations
6 and user permits as provided in [sections 321G.4, ~~321G.4A,~~](#)
7 [321G.6, 321G.21, 321I.4, 321I.5, 321I.7, and 321I.22.](#)

8 Sec. 13. Section 331.605, subsection 1, paragraph d, Code
9 2017, is amended to read as follows:

10 *d.* For the issuance of snowmobile registrations ~~and user~~
11 ~~permits~~, the fees specified in [sections section 321G.4 and](#)
12 [321G.4A.](#)

13 Sec. 14. REPEAL. Section 321G.4A, Code 2017, is repealed.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill relates to snowmobile user permits and
18 registration fees. The bill eliminates a requirement that
19 a snowmobile operator must obtain a user permit from the
20 department of natural resources to operate a snowmobile on
21 public land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of
22 the state. Code section 321G.4A, concerning the issuance
23 of user permits and user permit fees, is repealed and
24 cross-references to the repealed Code section are stricken.
25 References to user permits are also stricken.

26 The bill raises the annual registration fee for a snowmobile
27 from \$15 to \$30. The bill also provides that 80 percent
28 instead of 50 percent of the fees in the special snowmobile
29 fund shall be available for the use of political subdivisions
30 or incorporated private organizations or both. The bill
31 provides that moneys not used by those entities remain in the
32 fund and may be used by the department of natural resources
33 for the purchase of trail grooming equipment, instead of for
34 administration of snowmobile programs.

35 The bill adds an exemption from registration requirements

H.F. 537

1 for snowmobiles that are registered with an approved sponsored
2 snowmobile special event.